

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office

April 4, 2000

LB 936, 972

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Senator, would you respond?

SENATOR BOURNE: Yes.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Senator Bourne, I'm just trying to figure out, you're saying that one-half of one percent would be required to be hired and...

SENATOR BOURNE: No, what I'm saying is, again, I took the language directly out of LB 936, which is on Final Reading today, and it says, again, that basically this call center will result in the hiring of a number of new employees equal to at least one-half of one percent of the labor force in the county or counties in which the Customer Service Unit is located. So that makes it...I've got a list up here, and when I read those counties earlier, that wasn't nearly all of them. There's about 35 counties where, if it was a 25-person call center, this call center could be located such that it would increase the labor force by one-half of one percent.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Well, I'm not...I'm not here to debate or to argue about that. That's not my purpose for rising. My curiosity was, you know, agencies like this hire the number of people that they feel that they need. Now you're saying that whether they need them or not, they have to hire them, or is that not...

SENATOR BOURNE: Absolutely not. I think what would happen is the Treasurer would anticipate based on perhaps other states that have enacted similar call centers, because you recognize, Senator Vrtiska, that this is a federal mandate, so while it is new to us, other states have implemented such legislation. So I would think that, and again I'm just speculating, but I think that the Treasurer would evaluate what other states have done, recognized that other states that have populations similar to ours, say Iowa or another state has a population of about 1.6 million, and they require 25 or 30 people to run this call center, and he would anticipate that we would hire 25 to 30 people. Based on those projections, he would look at the figures from the Department of Labor and be able to, with some intelligence, decide which county to...that would be eligible